

# NEWS

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United States Department of Justice  
U.S. Attorney, District of New Jersey  
401 Market Street, Fourth Floor  
Camden, New Jersey 08101

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***Christopher J. Christie, U.S. Attorney***

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***More Information?*** Contact the Assistant U.S. Attorney or other contact listed below to see if more information is available.

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Assistant U.S. Attorney  
RONALD CHILLEMI  
856-757-5232

wood0606.rel  
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## Camden Man Sentenced to 78 Months in Federal Prison For Credit Card and Counterfeit Check Schemes

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(More)

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Greg Reinert, PAO  
Public Affairs Office

856-757-5233  
973-645-2888

**Breaking News (NJ)** <http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/nj/press/index.html>

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CAMDEN – A Camden man was sentenced to 78 months in federal prison today for running a counterfeit check cashing scheme and a credit card fraud scheme which totaled \$284,732 in losses, U.S. Attorney Christopher J. Christie announced.

U.S. District Judge Robert B. Kugler also ordered Kevin Woods, 38, of Camden, to pay \$284,732 in restitution and to serve three years of supervised release upon the completion of his prison term.

On Dec. 19, 2006, a federal grand jury returned a three-count Indictment that charged Woods with committed frauds through the use of counterfeit checks to obtain money and the use of other individuals' credit card information to obtain goods and services. Since prior to his indictment, Woods has been held in federal detention on a violation of supervised release.

On Oct. 25, 2007, Woods pleaded guilty before Judge Kugler to a one count each of wire fraud, access device fraud and bank fraud. At his plea hearing, Woods admitted from Jan. 25, 2005, to Feb. 11, 2005, he and Levar Taylor, 30, of Westville, defrauded various check cashing entities by cashing counterfeit checks. Woods admitted that he obtained a check from the law firm of Starkman and Rochman, LLC., and used the information contained on the check to manufacture approximately 71 counterfeit checks purporting to be drawn on the law firm's business account.

On June 20, 2007, Taylor pleaded guilty today before Judge Kugler to a one-count Information which charged him with conspiracy to commit wire fraud. Judge Kugler sentenced Taylor to 27 months in prison on April 3, 2008.

At his plea hearing, Taylor admitted that he assisted Woods with the counterfeit check scheme by recruiting individuals to cash the checks ("check cashers"). He admitted giving the check cashers' names to Woods so that he could manufacture counterfeit checks in their names. Once Woods produced the counterfeit checks, Taylor provided the counterfeit checks to the check cashers to be cashed at various locations, including Camden Check Cashing Service, Inc., located in Camden. Taylor admitted he also provided transportation for some of the check cashers to and from Camden Check Cashing Service, Inc.

On June 18, 2007, Keyonna Robinson, 25, of Camden, pleaded guilty before Judge Kugler to a one-count Information which charges her with credit card fraud. At her plea hearing, Robinson admitted that from February 2005 until December 2005, she participated with her husband, Kevin Woods, in the unauthorized use of credit card account numbers to obtain goods and services. Judge Kugler sentenced Robinson to five years probation and an order of restitution on March 25, 2008.

In determining the sentences, Judge Kugler consulted the advisory U.S. Sentencing

Guidelines, which provide appropriate sentencing ranges that take into account the severity and characteristics of the offense, the defendant's criminal history, if any, and other factors. The judge, however, was not bound by those guidelines in determining a sentence.

Parole has been abolished in the federal system. Defendants who are given custodial terms must serve nearly all that time.

Christie credited Special Agents of the FBI's South Jersey Resident Agency, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge Janice K. Fedarck in Philadelphia, the U.S. Postal Inspection Service, under the direction of Inspector in Charge Teresa L. Thome in Philadelphia, and the Prosecutor's Offices in Camden and Atlantic Counties, under the direction of Acting Prosecutor Joshua Ottentberg and Prosecutor Theodore F.L. Housel, respectively, for investigation of the case.

The Government is represented by Assistant United States Attorney Ronald Chillemi of the U.S. Attorney's Office Criminal Division in Camden.

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Defense Attorney: Christopher O'Malley, Esquire      AFD